A

Research Proposal

on

MENTAL HEALTH, BEHAVIOR PATTERN OF CONVICTED WOMEN IN RELATION TO SOME SELECTED PERSONOLOGICAL VARIABLES: A STUDY OF NORTHERN INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

Woman is the magnificent creation of god, a multi faceted personality with the power of benevolence, adjustability, integrity and tolerance. She is the companion of man, gifted with equal mental faculty, a protector and provider, the embodiment of love and affection. The role given to women in a society is a measuring rod and true index of its civilization and cultural attainment.

Femininity is routinely constituted within a number of discourses which circumscribe not only a woman's behavior but also the images which she has of herself and her relationships with other people. A woman's experience is governed by several factors including her body, her mind and her social interaction (Carlen and Worrall, 2008). A woman is viewed as caring, nurturing, and selfless when it comes to the needs of others. Women receive positive sanctions for their capability to establish and maintain relationships and accept the obligations of the family.

Almost 50 percent of the total population of India constitutes of women who are generally the foundation stone of a happy and prosperous life. But present decade witnesses a dramatic change in women who were previously thought to be the preservers of social norms, traditions; customs, morality and family cohesiveness, now are increasingly getting involved in the crimes. Earlier women were considered typically noncriminal in nature. Early criminologist noted the lower crime rate among women and generally explained this by speaking women as morally superior to men (Luke Owen Pike, 1986).

It was generally believed that the female was not a risk for crime but in the modern age, women are apprehended for such crimes, which were once committed by men. The predominant factors, which determine criminal tendencies in Indian women, are economic insecurity, social deprivation and emotional disturbances. Most criminologists probably date the beginning of the scientific study of female crime to 1990 with Caesar Lombroso's work, *The Female Offender.* Lombroso combined quantitative and qualitative data to understand the female criminal. Within the past decade, both public and professional interest in female criminality has greatly increased along with interest in the

general topic of women. Coverage of female crime in the mass media has fostered the belief that female crime rate are increasing at a rapid rate and that women are committing more violent crimes. Female criminals have been headlines as murderers, bank robbers, kidnappers, highjackers etc.

The National Crime Report Bureau of India (2010) reveal that the number of females arrested for criminals activities in 2005 were 1, 51,675, and this shot up to 7, 64,635 in 2010. The nature of crimes committed by them is gradually witnessing a sea change- from softer crimes like drug trafficking and prostitution to heinous crimes like murder. 3439 women were arrested for murder in 2007 and 5418 in 2010, which is an increase from 5.4% in 2007 to 12% in 2010. Most of the crimes committed by females are ones in the age group 30-45 years.

Although crime is perceived to be a male activity and the propensity to engage in crime is higher for males than females but over the past century, the female participation in the criminal activity is increasing. The fraction of arrestees for serious crimes who are female has grown over since 1980. In 1980, women comprised less than one-fifth arrests for index crimes and only 13% of arrests for drug crimes in England and by 2010 it comprised over 38% of arrest for index crime and almost 25% of arrests for drug crime (Richard and Prince, 2010). Women account for a non-trivial and growing share of criminals. Chesney et.al (2010) in his research study on Girls' troubles, girls' delinquency, and gender responsive programming in Australia stated the most prominent gender difference in reported arrests is the greater percentage of female offenders arrested for minor property crimes (28% of female arrests, compared to 13% of male).There are more women involved in crime today than there have been at any time since the end of World War II. Aschaffenburg reports that by 2009 in Germany there were 248,648 women offenders who were thefts, frauds and murderers.

Murray Straus (2009) conducted National Family Violence Survey in 1999 and 2009 with a total of 8,145 married couples of Germany. This survey showed that 78% of women assaulted their spouses as compared to 22% of men. Another study done by the British Home office in 2009 found that women outnumbered men in assaults. P. Fajnzylber et al. (2007) surveyed that in recent years the heightened incidence of criminal

and violent behavior has become a major concern across the world. From Eastern Europe to the developing countries, violence and crime has threatened the social stability and are becoming major obstacles to development of any country. Between the early 1980s and the mid 1990s, the rate of intentional homicides increased by 50% in Latin America and by more than 100% in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In countries such as Colombia, Russia, Thailand, India and England the homicide rate has increased more than triple in about the same period.

The Federal Bureau of Investigations' Uniform Crime Report (Washington, 2008) shows that between 1999 and 2010, the arrests made of women who have broken homes for violent crimes rose 90% compared to 43% for men. These violent crimes include aggravated assault and sex offense, excluding rape and prostitution. The only category in which men widened their lead was murder. This shows that crimes committed by women are on the rise.

Female percentage of arrests has tended to rise over the past two or three decades most notably in the violent crime categories .The increase has not been in traditional female crimes such as child abuse and prostitution, but rather in crimes like theft, fraud, embezzlement and forgery (Stewart, 2005). In Eastern Europe the most notable trend among women criminal in recent years has been for aggravated assaults .i.e. 12% to 22% in 2004 (House and Hughes, 2005). Simon and Baxter (2008) explained in his survey study on the crime rate among female offenders since 1990-2008 in England that by 1990, women committed 17% of crimes involving larceny and fraud. By 2008 the number has increased to 43%.Boston in England stated that in 1965 the female percentage of total arrest was significantly only 10% that is very less as compared to the total arrests of females in 2009 which was 24.5% and the type of the crime committed by female criminals were theft, fraud, embezzlement and forgery. Naveed Sultana(2010) in her research on studying the criminal behavior of female in Pakistan found that common crimes in female criminals were robbery, attempt to murder, murder, and prostitution, use of alcohol and narcotics and smuggling. The research recommended for establishing a balanced social setup to secure the women's rights. Bureau of Justice Statistics, America (2009) which calculated 10 year arrest trends from 1999 –2008 found that the total arrest rate for the adults declined around 8% for males during this period and rose by 19.7% for females. Women showed an increase in arrests for robbery, possession of stolen property

and simple assault. The homicide rate rose by around 6% and the aggravated assault rate by 3% seem to indicate that women are getting more violent than formerly. Women commit robbery with their male partners as well as the fact that only 11 % of arrests for robberies are of female. The most women criminals belonged to illiterate category (BJS).

Robbery like burglary is a crime of theft that involves violence or threat of violence against a person. Miller (2008) in her in depth interviews with 37 African American female offenders operating on the street of St. Louis found that women often robbed other women whom they viewed as weak and easy targets. Miller (2008) sees the background of broken homes, divorces, poverty, money to buy drugs and lack of legitimate opportunities as a powerful factor responsible for robbery among females. Earlier women involved in robberies were usually accessories or they accompanied someone else such as friend or acquaintance. However there are recent indications that the characteristics of female robbers are changing to reflect their increasing economic motivation for this type of crime. Valandra (2007) in her study on a stratified random sample of thirty three incarcerated female robbers in Florida found that in one third of the cases the offense was either committed alone or with other female accomplices. The female robbers studied were engaged in the planning and were active in the commission of the offences. The reasons given for the commission of the offenses were money, peer pressure, intoxication, revenge and pleasure.

Embezzlement is a crime that is not related to poverty but to the opportunity for women. Federal Bureau of Investigation, America (2009) revealed that women's embezzlement has rose by 23% by 2008. Jacobs(2010) in her analysis of six female offenders, who were convicted in connection with corporate crime, described a common pathway to crime. This pathway involves loyalty to man engaged in wrongdoing and the lust for money and fame. Of the six case studies of female white collar criminal that Jacobs studied only one individual emerged as truly independent.

The most obvious trend over the years is related to arrests for drugs and drug related offences and often arrests and prosecutions for other crimes, such as violence, robberies and prostitutions are drug related. According to the U.S. Department of justice (2008) approximately half of female, prison inmates were using drugs in the month before they commit the offense. Bureau of Justice Report, America (2002) states, nearly 1 in 3

women serving time in prison said that they had committed the offense in order to obtain money to support their need for drugs. Drug dependency amplifies income generating crimes among women criminals. Female involvement in robbery, burglary, prostitution and murders typically occur after addiction and is likely to be abandoned when drug ceases. Women involve in the prostitution at a very young age (Myers & Diener, 2005).

These days terrorism is increasingly becoming associated with women in crime. Historically women associated with terrorist activities have been relegated to subservient roles. They have been part of the support system that included duties such as fetcher and carrier, giver of aid, stout helpmeet but nothing more to the male operative in the field. Recent criminologists on this subject indicate a dramatic shift in women's terrorists' activities from support functions to full scale terrorist operations. Data on 204 active female terrorists compiled by Risks International of America (2001) shows that throughout the world women's participation has increased from 12 percent of the total number of terrorists in 1980 to 21 to 40 percent in 2000.

Murder is becoming more frequent among women criminals than their counterparts. Andreasen (2008) in his research study revealed that women are less likely to have previous criminal histories and are more likely to have committed the offences alone. The reasons for killing have been the result of domestic conflicts. Albert Roberts (2009) in his study on female offenders: criminal behavior and gender-role identity, examined data from a sample of 105 women in prison convicted of killing their husbands/partners and 105 battered women in a sample from the community of New Jersey. The imprisoned women had a history of being battered. These women received death threats from their partners than the battered women who did not kill their partners.

Recent increase in female criminality can be linked with the emancipation of women. There is a shift in the social values and cultural ethos of modern life that has opened up large and unknown avenues for anti-social activities for women. According to psychologist the increase in freedom gives hype to the crime rate. A person who has greater amount of individual freedom probably would experience a greater amount of social deviance (Aroona Broota, 2001). The rise on women increasing liberation from traditional roles acts as a key factor for women criminality. Freda Adler (1975) believed that the arrival of Second Wave of Feminism (Liberation) consequently coincided with a

dramatic upsurge in women's criminality activity. She claimed that women have demanded equal opportunity in the fields of legitimate endeavors. The similar number of determined women has forced their way into the world of major crime such as white collar crime, murder and robbery.

Criminologists see criminality as the result of individual characteristics and these characteristics are of a physiological or psychological nature and are uniformly based on implicit or explicit assumptions about the inherent nature of the person. Since criminality is seen as an individual activity rather than as a condition built into existing structures, the focus is on biological, psychological and social factors that would turn a woman towards criminal activity.

Physiological factors such as age, sex, marital status, education and certain sociological factors also have a correlation with the criminality of offenders. Adolescents and juveniles are more prone to offences like stealing, vandalism and sexual assaults as they readily fall a prey to the urge of sex and other lustful activities because of their tender age. The offences of theft, gambling, drunkenness, breach of traffic rules etc. are more common with persons in the age group of 18 to 30 years. This is, probably, because of the fact that these offences involve considerable display of courage, boldness and adventure, which these young people normally possess. Persons advanced in age and experiences are more prone to offences like white-collar crime, fraud, cheating, embezzlement etc. because the nature of these crimes required maturity of mind and tact to handle intricate situations in case of detection.

Psychologists treat crime as a behavior learnt by the criminal in course of his contact with different persons. Thus, like sociologists, they seek to explain crime in terms of environmental circumstances. With revolutionary changes in socio-economic conditions in India, the family patterns have radically changed. Excessive outdoor indulgences of modern Indian house wife with a general tendency on the part of Indian educated women to be after jobs was disrupted the harmony of Indian family life. This view finds support in Taft's (2001) expression that home is growing a source of emotional tension. The role of family has declined and its self-sufficiency jeopardised due to the outdoor interests of its members. The modern wife is no longer confined to her domestic duties as a result of which the internal discipline of the family is wholly shattered.

Women face life circumstances that tend to be specific to their gender such as sexual abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and the responsibility of being the primary caretaker for dependent children. Approximately 105,000 minor children have a mother in jail and approximately 65 percent of women in state prisons and 59 percent of women in Federal prisons have an average of two minor children. Marriage can foster recidivism among women, a finding that has been interpreted as an assortative mating effect (Krueger, Moffitt, Caspi, Bleske, and Silva 1998; Simons et al. 2002). Women may be especially vulnerable to such effects as research suggests that women are often drawn into criminal endeavors through their associations with deviant male partners (Alarid et al. 2000; Hanynie 2001; Steffensmeier and Allan 1996).

The female offenders, in particular, have very disorganized married lives. More of the female offenders have a higher rate of marriage, separation, divorce, and remarriage. They also have more children or sets of children (from different lovers or husbands) than male offenders, and their married lives are, as a result, quite complicated. A recent study of Oklahoma probationers and parolees showed that females married a mean number of 1.58 times, and male probationers married a mean number of .85 times. Also, female offenders had an average of 1.85 children as compared to 1.16 of their male counterparts (Jackson 1993).

The reasons for the failure of marital ventures of our women involved not only their own shortcomings but also those of their husbands. The majority of them (the husbands) were vicious and criminal. A practitioner who worked very closely with women offenders said: The female offender is inclined to respond quickly to any emotional stimulus, particularly where her family, her husband, boyfriend, or her children are involved. A good portion of her antisocial behavior may result also when her role as the dependent member of the household has been disrupted (Payak 1963).

Documents in possession of Times of India (2009) reveals that 66 out of a total of 110 women in prison are imprisoned under section 302 of Indian Panel Code (IPC) for murder. In all 22 women inmates are booked under section 302 including section 498 (Husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty), 307 (attempt to

murder) and section 34 (criminal acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention).

The society comprises of two major communities male and females. As the education of male community is important same important is female education. The word or term woman doesn't need any epithetic description. One may describe women as an adult female of human race, a wife, a mistress, a sister, a female sex. Women are an important member of the society. Infact no society is complete without female members. In human society women plays an important role in shaping the ethical and social values of society both at the individual and at a family level as well as at the larger social level.

Women offenders are low-income, undereducated, and unskilled with sporadic employment Histories. In 2008, an estimated 55 percent of women in local jails, 56 percent of women in state prisons, and 73 percent of women in Federal prisons had no high school degree (BJS, 2007). Approximately 40 percent of the women in state prisons reported that they were not employed at the time of their arrest. Most of the jobs held by women were low skill and entry-level, with low pay. Women are less likely than men to have engaged in vocational training prior to incarceration.

Brutality, recklessness, and licentiousness are spreading more and more in the women offenders, with the age group of 28-38 (Haccou, 2004). Rudolph (1995) studied a comparison of selected personal characteristics and attitudes regarding sex roles among violent and non-violent female offenders and student controls. The more educated women were less likely to commit crimes, use illegal drugs or drink alcohol excessively. Those women who were victimized either as adults or as children were more traditionally feminine in their belief systems. The more traditional the female offender's belief system, the more likely that the criminal behavior may be violent in nature. Sindwani and Chowdhary (1996) studied Metropolitan Crime: Delhi & Houston. While most of the Houstonians believed that the use of drugs and guns contributed to crimes, Delhi residents considered population explosion and illiteracy as the major contributing factors. Views of four high officials in the criminal justice system of both the cities have also been reported. Mullings and Janet (1998) investigated the study on "Victimization, Substance Abuse and High Risk Behavior as Predictors of Health among Women at Admission to Prison (Women Inmates)". The study indicates that women in prison are predominately poor, young, uneducated, racial/ethnic minorities who report high levels of victimization,

substance abuse, and high-risk behaviors. Limited research indicated that women prisoners suffer from a host of physical and mental disorders. Programs designed to address prior victimization, drug and alcohol use and high risk drug and sexual behaviors should be incorporated into programming for women offenders before traditional correctional approaches such as training and education will have significant impact.

Wells (2000) highlighted in his study on Education as Prison Reform that there is a possibility of education as a method of creating a favorable change in incarcerated individuals. Through education the individual would be encouraged in his/her attempts to succeed within the society.

One of the few facts agreed on in criminology is the age distribution of crime. The view that involvement in crime diminishes with age is one of the oldest and most widely accepted in criminology. Beginning with the pioneering research by Adolphe Quetelet in the early nineteenth century, criminological research consistently has confirmed that (the proportion of) the population involved in crime tends to peak in adolescence or early adulthood and then decline with age. This age-crime relationship is remarkably similar across historical periods, geographic locations, and crime types.

The impact of age on criminal involvement is one of the strongest factors associated with crime has prompted the controversial claim that the age-crime relationship is universal and invariant. Hirshi and Gottfredson (1999) argue that the relationship between crime and age is not only invariant across time and place, but is also independent of other correlates of crime. For Hirshi and Gottfredson, age has a direct influence on crime which cannot be explained by other variables. Thus, despite differences amongst individuals or groups their crime-age profiles (the age of onset, the peak age and the rate ofdesistence) will essentially be the same. However, considerable variation exists among offenses and across historical periods in specific features of the age-crime relationship (for example, peak age, median age, rate of decline from peak age).

After the age of 35 there is a steep drop in criminal activity as people take-on new roles such as wage-earner, parent, spouse etc. The possibility of jail time becomes a relatively more-serious matter because of the impact it will have on the perpetrators life and responsibilities. As people get older they take-on more personal responsibilities

(work / career for example) and social responsibilities (children or a partner for example) which make them consider the effect their behavior might have on people they love / value.

Other research has found that the crime-age relationship is explained by other correlates of crime such as demographic or socio-economic factors. Rowe and Tittle (2001) found that much of the relationship between crime and women offenders age was explained by other variables such as social integration, fear of sanctions, moral commitment and utility of crime when these variables were examined together. Kercher (2005) re-analysed the data used by Rowe and Tittle and found that the relationship between crime and age was an indirect one, mediated through other explanatory variables such as moral commitment and having criminal associates.

Thus, age is related to crime because it is associated with particular stages in an individual's life cycle which influence attitudes and behavior and act to encourage or discourage criminal involvement. But such factors have differential effects on individuals or groups, which means that crime-age profiles will not be the same across different groups of people. Greenberg (2006) points out that changes that have taken place in the family, education and the labour force have made it increasingly difficult for young women to make the transition to adulthood. Thus, current crime-age profiles are different from crime-age profiles produced in earlier time periods. Profiles also vary for different types of crime (Steffensmeieret al, 200), property crimes peak earlier than violent crimes, which themselves peak earlier than sexual crimes. There is differences in the crime-age profiles between different ethnic or social groups (Greenberg, 2006), or between males and females (Graham and Bowling, 2006) because the factors which encourage and discourage these groups to break the law are likely to be different for different groups of women offenders.

Antisocial personality is considered as a mental disorder. There is a higher occurrence of disorders such as schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, just to name a few among females. It is possible that having these personality disorders gives one a greater predisposition toward criminal behavior. A Swedish study found that the occurrence of major mental disorders in prisoners is 30%, where as there is 20% occurrence of personality disorders (Rasmussen, et.al 1999). Other studies have

given different values for the occurrence, but in most cases the research agrees that there is a much higher incidence of these mental disorders in those who commit crimes.

A variety of factors contributed to the development of criminal tendencies like frustration creating an emotional arousal predisposing to aggressive behavior, aggressiveness habits, external cues evoking the hostile actions, inhibitions against these socially disapproved responses etc. Mental disorders are also one of the various antecedents of crime. Psychopaths contend that offenders lead into criminality on account of functional deviations and mental conflicts. House (2001) in her study on "And Still They Rise" found that mental health is a critical issue for all of America's criminals.

MENTAL HEALTH

The expression mental health consists of two words: mental and health. The word mental usually implies something more than the purely cerebral functioning of a person, it also stand for his emotional affective status, the relationship he establishes with other and a quite general quality that might be called equilibrium in his socio cultural contest similarly health refers to more than physical health it also connotes the individual's intra psychic balance, the fitting of his psychic structures with the external environment and his social functioning. Mental health is a state of emotional and psychological well-being in which an individual is able to use his or her cognitive and emotional capabilities, function in society and meet the ordinary demands of everyday life (Merriam-Webster 2002).

Mental illness is a major problem in our community, our state and this nation. For those who suffer from it, it is a chronic problem that very often leads to unemployment, strained family relationships, homelessness, substance abuse and criminal activity. Mental illness does not respect any particular race, gender, age, nationality or socioeconomic level. It still carries a stigma and, left untreated. It creates problems for both the individual and the community.

Mental health problems are serious health concerns that affect women across diverse settings internationally. Mental health problems are characterized by a combination of abnormal thoughts, emotions, behaviors, and relationships with others (World Health Organization (WHO, 2001). Epidemiological studies demonstrate that the

prevalence of mental health problems is similar for men and women; however, significant gender differences exist in the patterns of mental health problems. In particular, depression, anxiety disorders, and psychological distress affect women to a greater extent than men, while men are more likely to experience antisocial personality and substance use disorders (Desjarlais, 2001). Gender differences also exist in the therapeutic and adverse responses to different psychiatric treatments (Blehar, 2006; Gold). Biological factors that place women at greater risk for mental health problems can include differences in hormone levels (e.g., estrogen), neurotransmitter levels (e.g., serotonin), and the endocrine regulatory system e.g., cortisol levels (Blehar, 2006). Researchers of an American Journal of Psychiatry studied 13 years of data from Sweden, where population data on mental health and crime is kept data from 1988 to 2000. It was found 18% of murders and attempted murders were committed by female with a mental illness. Research concludes that people with severe mental illness are responsible for one in 20 violent crimes. 5.2% of all violent crimes over the period were committed by women with severe mental illness. It was found that 15.7% of arsons were committed by women with such illnesses, as were 7.5% of threats and harassment.

Women's various roles in society contribute to countless psychosocial pressures that bear upon their mental health. For example, women often are expected to assume the primary responsibility for care of their children and family members, while many women also have full-time jobs outside the home. This double day can place a high burden on today's women, which can negatively affect their mental health (Stoppard, 2000). Women also routinely face gender discrimination and the associated factors of poverty, low education, and work inequities (Groh, 2007; WHO, 2000).These forms of violence often contribute to the high prevalence of mental health problems experienced by women (Schei, 2006).

The incarceration boom of the past decade, prisons have become home for alarming numbers of the mentally ill. Jails today have become the poor person's mental hospital, the dumping grounds for people whose bizarre, non medicated behavior lands them behind bars. In its investigation of the treatment of prisoners with mental illness, Human Rights Watch (2003) of America devoted special attention to the plight of female inmates. In New York, for example, 26% of the women are on the active mental health caseload compared to 11% of men, and in Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Vermont, over a

third of female prisoners are on that caseload. Mental health treatment is clearly substandard and especially so for female inmates, who often are simply tranquilized into silence. In their evaluation of inmate treatment in Arizona, Moe and Ferraro (2003) said that the inmates received treatment for their mental problems only when they threatened suicide.

Prisons fail to cope with mentally ill women. Psychiatric treatment, apart from the provision of medications, is rare within the prison setting. The use of chemical sprays, shackles, handcuffs, and stun guns are routine with this population. Anderson (2007) stated that women who are in the prison suffer from depression, anxiety, claustrophobia, and paranoia. Incarcerated women have substantial mental health needs that are often unrecognized, misidentified, and inadequately treated (Martin ,2001). The study of 49 incarcerated women examines the complex relationships among women's criminal history, victimization, relational supports, personal strengths and their mental health. Results suggested that mental health is affected by the victimization and criminal history of women criminal. Stephanie (2011) in his study on Crime: Trouble for Women in Prison reported that two thirds of the 500 federally sentenced women offenders suffer from mental illness and substance abuse.

It is generally considered that women who kill are more likely to have a psychiatric disorder than their male counterparts, but as a relatively small group, women are much less often studied than men in this context. Hanna *et.al* (2010) explored gender differences in the psychosocial history of homicide offenders. In this nationwide study, data were extracted from the forensic psychiatric examination and crime reports of all 91women prosecuted for homicide in Finland between 2004 and 2010. Both female and male homicide offenders had a troubled childhood, but more women had witnessed or experienced family violence. Although there were no differences between the men and women in the frequencies of psychiatric diagnoses or of substance abuse, the women had more often received prior mental health treatment. The women were also more likely to have had a history of suicidal behavior. More female use mental health services and prevention needed to be improved.

Mental illness is an important, often co-related, risk factor for women's drug use and criminality and appears to be a far more complex problem among women than men.

Women are twice as likely as men to report extreme levels of psychiatric distress and at higher levels than men for depression, anxiety states, and somatisation disorders. In study on The female criminal : an overview of women's drug use and offending behavior at Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre (Hockings et al. 2002), 57 percent of women prisoners were diagnosed with a specific mental illness, the most common being depression (39 percent of the sample).There are more than 4,400 women prisoners in America. Four out of five women prisoners have mental health problems, most commonly depression and anxiety. Almost half have been subject to abuse during their lives, Baroness Corston (March 2007). According to Roskes et al (1999) mental illness is prevalent in the prison population; this is reflected within the Bradley Report (2009) which states 78% of male offenders and 64% of female prisoners have a personality disorder. Roskes et al (1999) identify a number of models for the treatment of mentally disordered offenders within the community through use of the probation service.

Many women offenders experience mental illness. Approximately 80% of women in U.S. prisons and almost 66% of women in Canadian prisons have serious mental health problems, such as depression, high anxiety, and compulsions for self-mutilation and substance abuse is associated directly or indirectly with the crimes for which they were convicted (van Wormer & Bartollas, 2010). Maden (2010) in his Criminological and Psychiatric Survey of Women Serving a Prison Sentence explained that women had a higher prevalence of mental illness, learning difficulties (6 per cent compared to 2 per cent in men), personality disorder (18 per cent v 10 per cent), neurotic disorders (18 per cent v 10 per cent), and substance abuse (26 per cent v 12 per cent). In England Up to 80% of women in prison have diagnosable mental health problems, with 66% having symptoms of neurotic disorders (anxiety, poor sleeping). The comparable figure in the community is less than 20 %(Aksham Grange, 2009). Marquart & Edward (2001) in their research compared the criminal involvement of women prisoners with histories of mental health treatment to those who have not accessed such services. A random sample of 500 women prisoners was interviewed during the intake and admission process. It was found that women prisoners had mental illness and the mental health services lead them less violent than those who were not accessing the mental health treatment.

Females are found to be more depressed and depression has become the prominent factor of crime among them. Cauffmen (2009) in his research on antisocial behavior in

girls found that girls who were antisocial were apt to develop depression in adolescence. Deleon (2010) stated that the woman who is dangerously violent and also prone to depression is at the risk of killing her partner and herself when the threat of breakup occurs. Jamie Vaske (2008) in his paper on Mechanisms Linking mental illness to Criminal Behavior at the annual meeting of the ASC Annual Meeting, St. Louis Adam's Mark, St. Louis, Missouri explained that Feminist research has identified mental illness as a risk factor for females' criminal behavior. Michael D. Yapko (2003) in his study on Depression and Mental Illness among Women: Crime or Violence studied the Cross-cultural data which showed that the United States has a higher rate of depression and mental illness among women than almost in any other country, and that as Asian countries westernizes their rates of depression increase correspondingly. He stated that one of seven depressed women commit an act of violence against themselves or others.

Women criminals are more likely to have co-occurring disorders that is mental health problems combined with drug or alcohol abuse and have more histories of trauma. Tindall *et.al* (2005) in his study on Women: A Descriptive Comparison of Criminality, Substance Use, and Mental Health among two samples of female offenders explained that a higher percentage of female probationers reported lifetime depression, anxiety, cognitive impairment, and difficulties controlling violent behavior, as well as recent mental health problems when compared with drug court participants. Amelia Hill (2010) reports on the crisis in women's prisons that jail suicides are at an all-time high in England. Bullying and devastating mental health problems are at rife among women in prison. Salina *et.al* (2007) in the research study on Co-Occurring Mental Disorders among Incarcerated Women stated that prison violence, unmet needs and unsafe environment lead to mental illness, suicide, further criminal offences among women criminals. Kruttschnitt (2007) examined indicators of the mental health of 2911 women in the cultural context of women prisoners' mental health held in two prisons in California and three prisons in England to determine whether and how different aspects of prison life and prisoners' experiences affect their well-being and whether generalities about transnational changes in penal life are warranted. He examined that prison life affects the prisoners' experiences and females inclined more towards mental illness due to the prison environment.

There is a growing awareness of the incidence of mental disorders among women

involved in the criminal justice system. Two hundred and eighty-three women were participants in a federally-funded study and all met DSM-IV criteria for at least two Axis I disorders, including one substance abuse diagnosis. Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (chronic) was the primary mental health diagnosis for 75% of the sample. Based on findings, the need for rigorous and accurate diagnostic evaluation for women in criminal justice settings is discussed; specific recommendations include: providing evidence-based, integrated, trauma-informed treatment, and designing comprehensive gender-specific programs to improve outcomes for incarcerated women. Covington (2008) in his research study on evaluation of a Trauma-Informed and Gender-Responsive Intervention for Women in Drug Treatment stated that there is growing recognition of the complex needs of women with dual diagnoses of substance abuse and mental health disorders. Recent research indicates that 55% to 99% of women with co-occurring disorders have experienced trauma from abuse and that abused women tend to engage in self-destructive behaviors. For England and Wales, the Department of Health (DoH) responded to concerns with a general review of women's mental health care in prison and provided resultant guidance for services (DoH, 2002).

The psychological urge on the one hand and the sense of being a burden on the family on the other upset the mental equilibrium of persons and those who cannot resist their passion quite often fall an easy prey to criminality. Shin (1997) has reported that married women commit crime due to the burden of their family's needs along with limited available jobs or low paying jobs for them. Research by Strand and Belfrage (2005) showed that the rate that this character is manifest in correctional population is about 30 to 45% among females. Bloom, et.al (2003) in their study on personality disorders among female offenders stated that Depression, a mental disorder occur frequently in female offenders and especially in adolescents. Vivian Kraaij (2000) studied on Negative Life Events and Depression as Causes of Crime among females. In a meta-analysis of 25 studies, the relationship of both specific types of negative life events and the total number of experienced events to depression in female were studied. Almost all negative life events appeared to have a modest but significant relationship with depression. The total number of negative life events and the total number of daily hassles appeared to have the strongest relationship with depression and this depression leads to anti social behavior among them.

Obeidallah and Earls (2009) in a project from the American institute of justice confirmed the link between depression and delinquency. During the childhood, males' and females' rate of depression are similar and relatively low, early adolescence is a time when the rates clearly diverge with the girls showing a pronounced increase. Difficulty in concentrating, loss of interest in previously enjoyed activities, feeling of hopelessness and low self worth may contribute to self-destructive acts and alliances. In order to document a relationship between depression and antisocial behavior in an ethnically diverse population, Obeidallah and Earls gathered self-report data on 754 girls in urban Chicago. Comparing the antisocial behavior of girls who were depressed with those who were not, they found that 40% of non-depressed girls were engaged in property crimes compared to 68% of girls with depression. 57% of depressed girls engaged in seriously aggressive behavior compared to only 13% of those who were not depressed. Overall these findings suggest that depression in girls may put them at high risk for antisocial behavior.

The criminality of women according to Pollock (1961) represents a masked behavior. It means that a woman hides her criminal tendencies behind the role she plays like that of a nurse, domestic servant, wife, mother, sister or a paramour. Moreover, these roles often help in deceiving the public about her inner feelings. Since the society holds great value regarding the concept of a mother or a wife, thus it tends to have sympathetic attitude towards the offences committed by women. In the modern age, even women are apprehended for such crimes, which were once committed by men, such as shoplifting, smuggling, theft and robbery. Many women capitalize on their charm and feminist appeal and try to blackmail men. Yet, it is often difficult to detect them because their behavior is always masked behind the roles that they enact in the society.

Crime is the substitute of symbolic behavior of a person. Thus, the desire for committing suicide (self-murder) is out of the feeling of inferiority, frustration, depression or anxiety. Again, theft is committed out of the sense of financial inferiority and in order to get rid off the feelings of spite and dependence.

BEHAVIOR PATTERN

Human beings like other animal species, have a typical life course that consists of

successive phases of growth each of which is characterized by a distinct set of physical, physiological, and psychological features. Behavior can be defined as a response which is observed directly or indirectly. Direct observation is possible by studying the responses of people to a work environment. Indirect observations are decision making processes and attitudes, in terms of results or how people describe them verbally. Human behavior is very much unpredictable. In behavior one cannot assume a set pattern of behavior. Behavior is a dependent factor. By understanding behavior one can predict, direct, change and control behavior of individuals or group.

Behavior is the result of interaction between individual characteristics and the characteristics of the environment in which the behavior occurs. Some of these characteristics are present from birth others develop over time. Physical and personal attributes values, attitudes, personality and aptitudes, economic conditions, social and cultural norms, and political factors can affect the individual's behavior. The whole personality is the sum of various parts; each part is the domain of knowledge about certain aspects of human nature. There are six distinct domains of knowledge about human nature i.e. dispositional domain, biological domain, intrapsychic domain, cognitive domain and adjustment domain.

Within criminology, the analysis of criminal behavior is a central issue. Such an analysis involves different aspects. Criminologists have developed typologies of criminal to define the patterns of behavior common in criminals in order to establish criminal types. Typologies involve classifying offenses or offenders according to some criteria of relatedness or similarity. For example, criminologists have made many attempts to arrange offenders into categories such as normal or abnormal and habitual or professional and to develop a continuum of criminals that would extend from the insane at one extreme through various career criminals, petty offenders, and white-collar criminals to organized or professional criminals at the other extreme. A criminal typology is criminological theory made manageable in a way that can be practically applied to organize, classify, and make sense of a range of behaviors that violate the law. The biological, psychological and sociological approaches of the criminal typologies helps to analysis the behavior pattern of the criminals. The biological approach emphasis the criminal's genetic and hereditary predispositions, psychological approach focus on the

attitudes of the individual and sociological approach emphasize individual criminal activities, self concepts, group relations and similar variables.

Criminal behavior involves a combination of physical, mental, social and environmental aspects, such as neurological deviations, hormones, arousal, empathy, social control etc. The different aspects are addressed by many research criminologist that play an important role in their criminal behavior like physical, social, emotional and intellectual under the subtitles as awareness, knowledge, guilt, remorse, theory of mind, empathy, low arousal, impulsiveness (Greenspan & Shoultz,2004).

Offenders like to exert power and have unrestricted dominance over others ignoring their needs and justifying the use of whatever they feel compelling to achieve their goals and avoid adverse consequences for their acts. Female criminals are capable of having extremely heightened attention in certain situations. Kimberling (2011) investigated that women criminals do not show feelings like the rest of us. They lack the normal mechanisms of anxiety arousal. Violent female offenders lack the usual type of more impulsive aggressive behavior, i.e. violence accompanied by an emotional discharge and an excitement arousal (in the sympathetic nervous system). Instead, their kind of violence is similar to predatory aggression, that is accompanied by minimal or no sympathetic arousal and is planned, purposeful and without emotion.

Criminals are characterized by a disregard for social obligation and a lack of concern for the feelings of others. They display pathological egocentricity, shallow emotions, lack of insight, poor control of beings and remorse, anxiety or guilt in relation to their antisocial behavior. They are usually callous, manipulative individuals, incapable of lasting friendship and of love. They use charm, manipulation, intimidation and violence to control others and to satisfy their own selfish needs. Lacking in conscience and in feelings for others, they violate social norms and expectations without the slightest sense of guilt or regret. It is hard for a criminal to understand or imagine the pain of other people. Furthermore, violent women offenders have a high level of testosterone, which makes them more aggressive in their behavior, and low levels of serotonin, which makes them easily bored and stimulates them to seek sensation. Brunner et al.(2007) stated that there have been attempts to determine the role of Neurochemicals in influencing criminal or antisocial behavior. Female violent offenders have been classified as more masculine

or more feminine than female nonviolent offenders (Campbell et. al., 1987), as having higher testosterone levels (Dabbs et al., 1998), as being more aggressive (Climent et al., 2001) and more suicidal (Rosenblatt & Greenland, 2004)

Criminal seem to have a cluster of traits that make them prone to show violent behavior. They have a less emotional control which can lead to inappropriate and aggressive reactions to minor provocations and can spark a violent act when they lose control of themselves. Women with Anti Personality Disorder show emotion in the form of an outburst or anger and usually have low level of intelligence. Elliot (2000) stated that there is a great deal of evidence that shows serotonin is related to aggression which can be further associated with antisocial or criminal behavior.

Risk-seeking behavior and substance abuse can be seen as attempts to escape feeling emotionally void. Weissman & File (2009) in their study on Criminal behavior patterns of female addicts: a comparison of findings in two cities stated the relationship between crime and addiction in females have generally concluded that addicted females feel emotionally void and try to escape from emptiness . They either become prostitutes or they commit crimes against property. Wehman et al. (2010) investigated that an important trigger for psychopathic violent behavior is the use of drugs and/or alcohol. For a women offender using drugs or alcohol can become a compulsion and through a genetic and neurological mechanism, it results in violent behavior. American Psychiatric Association (2006) stated that people who qualify for anti social personality disorder are impulsive, blaming of others and seemingly unable to feel empathy or guilt. Seifert (2008) in her study of female violence indicated that adult females with histories of aggression had moderate to severe behavior problems that began before the age of 13. Assault of an authority figure, impulsivity, delinquency, running away from home, substance abuse, few pro-social peers, behavior problems at school, home or work, family violence and low warmth in family, excessive absenteeism from school or work are the general characteristics of women offenders.

Criminal usually comes to attention because of the gross disparity between their behavior and the prevailing norms. In a social context individuals diagnosed with Anti Personality Disorder cannot experience emotions associated with either empathy or suffering of others. Criminal tend to be more hostile, less affiliative, and have problems

with moral understanding (Lowenstein, 2003). Studies conducted by (Reid et al., 2006) showed that the male and female criminal are characterized by callous unconcern for the feelings of others, disregard for social norms, rules and obligations, incapacity to maintain enduring relationships, failure to conform to social norms, deceitfulness, impulsivity, irritability and aggressiveness, a reckless disregard, a consistent irresponsible and often lack of remorse. These patterns of behavior usually occur since the age of 15 among the offenders.

Girls with masculine features are ridiculed not only by the males but also their own womenfolk and therefore, they deviate from normal ways of life and do not even hesitate to indulge in sex-crime in an effort to overcome their inferiority complex. According to the article written by Holmes et al. (2001), antisocial behavior between the ages of nine and fifteen can be correlated strongly with impulsivity and that aggression in early childhood can predict antisocial acts and delinquency. One statistic shows that between seventy and ninety percent of violent offenders had been highly aggressive as young children (Holmes et al., 2001).

Libet & Lewinsohn in 2002 described and examined the emotional behavior (conscentiouness, empathy and attitude) of older criminal women. They concluded that offences by persons are almost associated with an unpremeditated outburst, a disproportionate reaction and consequent injury, usually to an acquaintance or family member. After the episode, the offender has no recollection of their actions and has feelings of remorse. Million(2009) in his study on American women offenders described cases where individuals lacked morality, displayed pattern of irresponsibility and failed to experience feelings of shame as a result of negative consequences of their behavior.

Kraplin (2003) described four categories of individuals who have similar features to what we consider anti social personality disorder. He categorized women offenders as destructive, threatening, having no moral values, lack of deep emotional values such as sympathy and affection. Thievery is common among them and they commit crimes of various kinds.

Women are considered for turning crime as a perversion of feminine role. The involvement of women in terrorist activities, smuggling, violence, communal riots etc.

witnessed the adoption of untraditional trends of crime by them, defying all available theories and trends of crime, because most of these crimes are problems of structural immorality and ethnic affinity. It therefore, becomes the need of the day to study the problem from fresh angle in order to understand the phenomenon in its totality- recent trends, etiology, personality traits and its impact on society.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM

Crime has been a baffling problem ever since the dawn of human civilization and man's efforts to grapple with this problem have only partially succeeded. There is hardly any society, which is not beset with the problem of crime and criminality. Crime is a natural phenomenon, which is constantly changing with the social change. Every society which hopes to preserve a reasonable degree of stability must find a way of dealing with those who violate its criminal code.

Crime has rather myopically been seen as a male problem to the neglect of the female contribution to the phenomenon. Whereas members of both sexes are certainly capable and are involved in criminal behavior. Crime is not the exclusive domain of males any more.

Crime among women is increasing in the modern era. Women are taken into custody for such crime which was earlier thought of committing by males only. The women crime rate is increasing worldwide. Statistics shows that female violence outnumbered the male in crime. National Crime Record Bureau of India (2010) reveal that the number of females arrested for criminals activities in 2005 were 1, 51,675, and this shot up to 7, 64,635 in 2010. The nature of crimes committed by them is gradually witnessing a sea change- from softer crimes like drug trafficking and prostitution to heinous crimes like murder. 3439 women were arrested for murder in 2007 and 5418 in 2010, which is an increase from 5.4% in 2007 to 12% in 2010.females are getting more involved in the type of violent crimes like theft, fraud, embezzlement and forgery. The criminal behavior among women is changing in the present decade.

A variety of factors contributed to the development of criminal tendencies like frustration creating an emotional arousal predisposing to aggressive behavior,

aggressiveness habits, external cues evoking the hostile actions, inhibitions against these socially disapproved responses etc. Mental disorders are also one of the various antecedents of crime. Psychopaths contend that offenders lead into criminality on account of functional deviations and mental conflicts. The incarceration boom of the past decade, prisons have become home for alarming numbers of the mentally ill. Jails today have become the poor person's mental hospital, the dumping grounds for people whose bizarre, non medicated behavior lands them behind bars. In its investigation of the treatment of prisoners with mental illness, Human Rights Watch (2003) of America devoted special attention to the plight of female inmates. In New York, for example, 26% of the women are on the active mental health caseload compared to 11% of men.

Crime is the substitute of symbolic behavior of a person. Criminal behavior involves a combination of physical, mental, social and environmental aspects, such as neurological deviations, hormones, arousal, empathy, social control etc. The different aspects are addressed by many research criminologist that play an important role in their criminal behavior like physical, social, emotional and intellectual under the subtitles as awareness, knowledge, guilt, remorse, theory of mind, empathy, low arousal, impulsiveness (Greenspan & Shoultz,2004).

With the growing number of women involved in the criminal justice system there is a need to examine female offenders in order to understand potential differences which might have important implications for treatment assessment and planning. While knowledge of women's mental health and behavior patterns has advanced over the years, research still is required to understand women's mental health needs and their patterns of behavior. In order to improve the psychological wellbeing of women, research exploring women's mental health-related experiences is also required, as well as research that empowers women to achieve their full mental health potential.

The present study will help to understand the experiences that influence behavior pattern and mental health and behavior pattern of convicted women in order to better understand, prevent, detect, intervene with, and advocate the problem of crime among women. It can help to educate the general public and lawmakers about the nature of the problem, the impact it is having on all of our lives and how we can improve the plight of those who suffer from mental health and behavior problems.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Mental Health, Behavior Pattern of Convicted Women in Relation to Some Selected Personological Variables: A Study of Northern India

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF THE TERMS USED

CONVICT

Convict means a person against whom charges has been proved under the law for awarding him punishment prescribe for that charge.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health involves level of cognitive and emotional well being as well as the successful performance of mental functions.

BEHAVIOR PATTERN

The kind of behavior a person elicits in respond to various situations or stimuli can be classified as types of behavior.

Eight pattern of behavior are identified for the present study:

AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR:-

It is a form of physical or verbal behavior leading to self-assertion. It is often angry and destructive in nature and intends to be injurious physically or emotionally.

ASSERTIVE BEHAVIOR:-

It is the expression of one's feelings, beliefs, opinions, and needs in a direct, honest and appropriate manner.

DOMINANT BEHAVIOR:-

It is defined as having primary control, authority, or influence of individuals

through force in order to establish priority access to all desired resources.

EXTROVERT BEHAVIOR

One whose personality is characterized by extroversion; broadly: a gregarious and unreserved .A person who is interested only or mostly in things outside the self is characterized as extrovert.

INTROVERT BEHAVIOR

A person who tends to shrink from social contacts and preoccupied with own thoughts is introvert. It is a behavior that is concerned or interested mostly in one's own thoughts and ideas.

PASSIVE BEHAVIOR

Behavior that doesn't react visibly to something that might be expected to produce manifestations of an emotion or feeling.

RECESSIVE BEHAVIOR

A behavior that tends to recede or go back.

CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

Criminal behavior is any behavior that criminal has intent and results in punishment by law enforcement. Criminal activity is born of instinctive impulses that the criminal chooses not to ignore.

OBJECTIVES

1. To investigate and explore the mental health of convicted women in relation to their age, education and marital status in Northern India.
2. To identify and explore behavior pattern of convicted women in relation to their age, education and marital status in Northern India.
3. To find out the relationship between mental health and behavior pattern of convicted women in Northern India.
4. To explore the causes that forced the convicted women to commit crime in Northern India.
5. To suggest remedial measures for factors that forced the convicted women to commit crime.

HYPOTHESES

1. There exists no relationship between the mental health and age of convicted women of Northern India.
2. No relationship exists between mental health and marital status of convicted women of Northern India.
3. There exists no relationship between the mental health and education of convicted women of Northern India.
4. There exists no relationship between the behavior pattern and age of convicted women of Northern India.
5. No relationship exists between behavior pattern and marital status of convicted women of Northern India.
6. There exists no relationship between the behavior pattern and education of convicted women of Northern India.
7. There exists no significant relationship between mental health and behavior pattern of convicted women of Northern India.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Sampling frame

Data will be collected from convicted women representing four areas i.e. Haryana, Delhi, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh of Northern India. The respondents of the study are convicted women of Punjab. The total number of convicted women has been found to be 543 in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi jails of Northern India. Thus, all the 543 convicted women constitute the population for the present study. For the qualitative analysis 40 case studies of convicted women belonging to representative areas of Northern India will be conducted.

TOOLS FOR THE PRESENT STUDY

For the present study following tools will be used

1. Information Sheet
2. The investigator will prepare and standardize the following scales:

a. Mental Health Scale
b. Behavior Pattern Scale

3. For qualitative analysis, case studies of convicted women will be taken for which a schedule will be prepared by the investigator.

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

The aim of the present study is to find out the mental health and patterns of behavior of convicted women in relation to some selected personological variables: a study of northern India. Keeping in mind the objectives of the present study, both quantitative and qualitative approach will be taken. In order to explore behavior pattern of convicted women, scale of behavior pattern will be used which includes eight dimensions based on items related to family, friends and neighbors, and social activities. In order to assess mental health of convicted women, mental health scale will be used .The item content of mental health scale will consist of eight different dimensions i.e. anxiety, depression, somatization, phobia, paranoid, obsessive compulsive disorder, dissociative personality disorder and anti social personality. An interview schedule will be prepared covering the questions pertaining to their personal, social, educational and marital status problems. The objective of the present study is to find out the causes, which compelled the convicted women to commit the crimes. To know the causes of the crimes, the detailed information will be collected from them in the form of their case histories so that the in-depth or hidden causes can also be revealed in an informal manner. Thus, the investigator will interview sixty convicted women, lodged in Northern States of India. The detailed information regarding their home environment, work place environment, circumstantial evidences of committing crime, and reasons for committing the crime as stated by them, conviction period, their family status, marital status, family type, educational status and other persons who helped them in committing the crime will be collected. The investigator will contact the jail authorities to match the information provided by the convicted women and as mentioned in charge sheets. To be more thorough in her information, the investigator will also contact either their family members or friends or neighborhood to clarify the events. The case studies will be presented along with the perceptions of the investigator based on the behavior and actions at the time of interview and their relationship with fellow convicts and jail authorities.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

To compare the variables under the study, standard scores will be applied. To explore the relationship between variables correlation coefficient will be used. Other appropriate statistical techniques will be used if required at later stage.

CHAPTER SCHEME

INTRODUCTION

- *Theoretical Orientation of the problem*
- *Significance of the Problem*
- *Statement of the Problem*
- *Operational Definitions of the Terms Used*
- *Objectives of the Study*
- *Hypotheses*
- *Delimitation*

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

- *Quantitative Approach to the Present Study*
- *Sampling Procedure*
- *Sampling Frame*
- *Sampling Technique*
- *Qualitative Approach to the Present Study*
- *Tools*
- *Administration of the Tools*
- *Data Collection and Tabulation*
- *Statistical Techniques*

RESULTS, DISCUSSIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- *Mental health of convicted women in relation to their age, education and marital status.*
- *Behavior pattern of convicted women in relation to their age, education and marital status.*

- *Relationship between mental health and behavior pattern of convicted women in Northern India.*

CONCLUSIONS

LIMITATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

SUMMARY

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APPENDICES